



Coastal Flood Resilience News

April 4, 2025

This newsletter provides a summary of news and research journal articles related to coastal storms and rising sea levels. It is a product of the [Coastal Flood Resilience Project](#), a coalition of nonprofit organizations working for stronger programs to prepare for coastal storm flooding and rising sea levels along the coast of the United States.

Science

- 1. Record Low Sea Ice:** This [article](#) in the *New York Times* describes the current extent of sea ice, now at an all-time low and notes that the thickness of sea ice is also decreasing.

Here is the [NASA report](#). And here is [an assessment](#) from climate scientist James Hansen describing, among other things, the connection between sea ice, the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC), warming of polar waters, loss of the West Antarctic ice sheet, and sea level rise, concluding:

“Overall, accelerated global warming does not bode well for stability of the ice sheets, the ocean’s overturning circulations, and global sea level in coming decades – despite the complexity of sea ice changes and uncertainty about the growth rate of ice sheet mass loss.”

- 2. CSU Predicts 2025 Hurricane Season Like 2024:** This article in the *Washington Post* summarizes the new forecast for the 2025 hurricane season from Colorado State University, which predicts 17 named storms, compared to the past 30 year average of 14, noting:

“The forecast out Thursday underscores how warming oceans and cyclical patterns in storm activity have primed the Atlantic basin for what is now a decades-long string of frequent, above-normal — but not necessarily hyperactive — seasons, said Philip Klotzbach, a senior research scientist at Colorado State and the forecast’s lead author.”

Here is the CSU [press release](#).

3. **AccuWeather Predicts “Turbulent” 2025 Hurricane Season:** The first of the hurricane [season predictions](#) is from AccuWeather, calling for 13-18 named storms and impacts similar to 2024.

National Policy

4. **Chaos at NOAA Threatens Hurricane Forecasts:** This [article](#) from *The Guardian* describes how staff cuts of up to 20% at NOAA could “imperil public safety by [hindering timely warnings of tornadoes and hurricanes](#).”
5. **NOAA Cuts threaten 50 Years of Weather/Climate Forecasting:** This [opinion piece](#) in *Yale Environment 360* describes the critical role NOAA has played in developing modern weather and climate forecasts and the threats that staff cuts and program funding cuts pose for this work.

“The recent and planned cuts to NOAA are, as intended, profoundly threatening to climate science — at GFDL; at the Mauna Loa Observatory, the Hawaiian lab that maintains the longest record of atmospheric carbon dioxide; and elsewhere. They threaten routine weather prediction as well, as weather balloon launches are canceled and the staff needed to maintain and upgrade the models are slashed.

6. **Major Disasters UP While FEMA Funds DOWN:** This [article](#) in *The Hill* describes Trump administration proposals to develop recommendations to terminate or downsize FEMA funding and new [analysis of US disaster declarations](#) in 2024, finding:

“90 declarations - close to double the 30-year average (1995-2024), which stands at 55 declarations per year. This amounts to around one Major Disaster declaration every 4 days in 2024.”

Here is the [press release](#) from the International Institute for Environment and Development, which authored the disaster study.

7. **FEMA Elimination Planned by October 1:** This *Washington Post* [article](#) describes plans now underway to eliminate FEMA by October 1, the beginning of the next fiscal year. As part of this work, the administration is [seeking comments](#) from the public to “gain an understanding of their experience with FEMA during disasters.” Comments are due May 15.

- 8. FEMA Not Preparing for Hurricanes:** Funding freezes, staff reductions, and reorganization discussions have left FEMA struggling to prepare for hurricane season, according to this report from CNN:

“March is typically when we’re finalizing hurricane plans. A lot of that got paused,” a FEMA official, who works directly on disaster response, told CNN. “So, it’s already having an impact, which is that we’re not preparing.”

- 9. Treasury Secretary Discusses Insurance Market Fixes:** In this [substack post](#), Susan Crawford reviews the ideas that Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent outlines in a recent [“All In” podcast](#), including supporting insurance markets by lowering physical risks including:

“federal financial mandates or subsidies driving “proper hygiene” in the form of updated, safer building codes as well as safer building materials and brush removal to dampen fire and other physical climate risks.”

- 10. FEMA Future Risk Index Tool Website Shut:** *The Guardian* [reports](#) that FEMA has shut the website that provided the Future Risk Index tool that offered data for localized impacts of diverse risks, including hurricanes and coastal flooding. The Guardian worked with nongovernment researchers to [recreate the Index](#). The [National Risk Index](#), a related tool focused on current risks is still available with some edits to remove climate references.

- 11. NOAA Launches Storm Surge Virtual Reality Experience:** Recognizing that storm surges are the most deadly and damaging aspects of many storms, NOAA has created a new Storm Surge Virtual Reality Experience, called “Weathering the Storm,” offering users a sense of how storm surges feel. This [report](#) in the *Washington Post* provides more details; here is a [link to the program](#).

- 12. Corporate Climate Risk Disclosure Rule Support Terminated:** This [article](#) in *The Hill* describes how the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) voted to stop defending a rule that required some companies to [disclose their planet-warming emissions](#) and how climate change would impact their business.

- 13. Oil Industry Fights State Climate Superfunds Laws:** This [article](#) in the *Washington Post* describes how oil companies are planning court challenges to new laws passed in Vermont and New York intended to demand compensation from oil companies for climate losses and modelled after the national Superfund

law. These laws have the potential to provide significant funding for climate adaptation, including support for strengthening coastal flood resilience.

FYI: Here is the [original legal memo](#) making the case for using a Superfund legal strategy for recovery of climate damage costs from oil companies.

State and Local

14. Charleston Water Plan: This [article](#) in the *Charleston Post and Courier* describes the City of Charleston’s “Water Plan” for managing storm surges and rising seas.

“The Water Plan is a road map for dozens of infrastructure projects, real and potential, across the city over the coming decades to address flooding from storm surge, rising seas, groundwater and rainfall.”

Here is an interesting [“story map”](#) version.